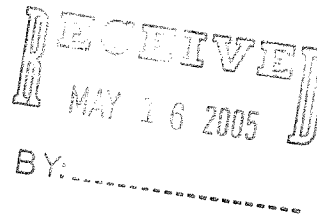


May 12, 2005

The Honorable Shelley Taub  
S0889 House Office Building  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514



BIRCHLER ARROYO  
ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dear Representative Taub:

I am writing to express my full support for HB 4398, unification of the State's zoning enabling acts. This bill is important because it creates a single zoning act by consolidating the Township Zoning Act, City and Village Zoning Act, and County Zoning Act into one. The legislation proposes no substantive changes to existing law. Its purpose is strictly to unify the three existing acts into one.

This bill will benefit local governments, citizens, and developers by establishing a more uniform set of procedures related to zoning. The current inconsistency between notice requirements for zoning amendments, based upon whether you live in a township or city/village, is often confusing to the public and the development community alike.

*A few of the major benefits of unification are noted below:*

- ▶▶ One zoning enabling act to read, understand, and amend, instead of three;
- ▶▶ Fewer pages to read, search or duplicate;
- ▶▶ Common public hearing notice requirements;
- ▶▶ Improved citations and more cross references; and
- ▶▶ Easier to understand everyday language and terms.

This bill will lead to more efficient government at the local level. It will also enhance state government by making future amendments less cumbersome (only one bill to rewrite and vote on instead of three). I also believe it will lead to efficiency for our Attorney General and State court system, since procedural questions will require only one set of AG's opinions and procedural case law decisions will apply to all municipalities. If this results in just one less lawsuit based on procedural grounds, it will save tens of thousands of dollars.

My planning consulting firm provides planning assistance to approximately 20 municipalities in southeast Michigan. I know that my clients will benefit from this legislation. I urge you to contact Representative Kevin Elsenheimer, who introduced HB 4398, and show support.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me at (248) 423-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David C. Birchler".

David C. Birchler, AICP, PCP  
President, Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc.

cc: Andrea Brown, AICP, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Planning

*David C. Birchler, AICP, PCP, 3005 Berkshire, Bloomfield, Michigan 48301 248.423.1776*